

# **ADMINISTRATION FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES**

## **House Subcommittee Report**

Excerpts from the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill, 2009

### **PAYMENTS TO STATES FOR CHILD SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT AND FAMILY SUPPORT PROGRAMS**

The Committee provides \$2,759,078,000 for the Child Support Enforcement and Family Support programs, which is \$480,922,000 below the fiscal year 2008 funding level and the same as the budget request. These programs support State-administered programs of financial assistance and services for low-income families to promote their economic security and self-sufficiency. The recommended amount includes \$1,000,000,000 in advance funding for the first quarter of fiscal year 2010 to ensure timely payments for the Child Support Enforcement program. The Committee recommends an estimated \$35,000,000 for payments to territories, which is the same as the fiscal year 2008 funding level and the budget request. The Committee notes that the authorized funding level for the Repatriation program is set at \$1,000,000 under section 1113(d) of the Social Security Act even though the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) estimates that \$1,300,000 is needed to support the current program. The Committee urges the authorizing committee of jurisdiction to adjust the ceiling as proposed by the Administration. An adjustment would improve ACF's capacity to accommodate the current non-emergency needs of the program, as well as to permit rapid response to emergency repatriation of U.S. citizens due to war, threat of war, invasion, natural disaster, or similar crises.

### **LOW-INCOME HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE**

The President's fiscal year 2009 budget proposes to cut the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) by \$570,328,000. The Committee strongly disagrees with this reduction and recommends \$2,770,328,000 for LIHEAP. This amount is \$200,000,000 more than the fiscal year 2008 funding level and \$770,328,000 more than the budget request. The Committee recommends \$1,980,000,000 for the State formula grants, which is the same as the fiscal year 2008 funding level and \$280,000,000 above the budget request. The Committee recommends \$790,328,000 for the contingent emergency reserve. This amount is \$450,000,000 more than the fiscal year 2008 funding level and \$490,328,000 more than the budget request. The Committee intends that not more than \$27,000,000 be used for the Leveraging Incentive Program, which rewards States that leverage private or non-Federal resources for home energy assistance. LIHEAP provides assistance to low-income households to help pay the costs of home energy. This program serves the most vulnerable in the country-94 percent of households receiving LIHEAP grants have at least one family member who is elderly, disabled, a child under 18, or have a single adult living with one or more children. More than three-fourths of such households reported an annual income at or below \$20,000. Currently only 16 percent of eligible households, based on Federal guidelines, receive LIHEAP assistance. Families are making tough choices between paying soaring utility bills, the rising cost of food, and the high costs of prescription drugs. The amount recommended by the Committee could provide energy

assistance to an additional 450,000 needy families than in fiscal year 2008 and an additional 1.7 million needy families than under the request.

## **REFUGEE AND ENTRANT ASSISTANCE**

The Committee provides \$641,144,000 for Refugee and Entrant Assistance programs. This amount is \$14,487,000 less than the fiscal year 2008 funding level and \$13,100,000 more than the budget request. In addition, the Committee bill includes language making funds available through September 30, 2011 to reimburse the costs of services for all programs within the jurisdiction of the Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR).

The ORR programs are designed to help refugees, asylees, Cuban and Haitian entrants, and trafficking victims become employed and self-sufficient. These programs also assist unaccompanied immigrant children in Federal custody, and victims of torture.

### *Transitional and Medical Services*

The Committee provides \$287,000,000 for Transitional and Medical Services, which is \$9,057,000 less than the fiscal year 2008 funding level and the same as the budget request. The Transitional and Medical Services program provides funding for the State-administered cash and medical assistance program that assists refugees who are not categorically eligible for Temporary Assistance for Needy Families or Medicaid, the unaccompanied minors program that reimburses States for the cost of foster care, and the voluntary agency grant program in which participating national refugee resettlement agencies provide resettlement assistance with a combination of Federal and matched funds. The recommended funds, together with \$24,600,000 in fiscal year 2008 carryover funds, will provide a total of \$311,600,000, approximately the same resources available in fiscal year 2008. These funds are expected to be sufficient to provide resettlement assistance to 80,000 refugees and 5,000 Iraqi and Afghanistan special immigrants, as well as Cuban and Haitian entrants, arriving during fiscal year 2009.

*Voluntary Agency Matching Grant Program* — The Committee recognizes the positive outcomes of the Voluntary Agency Matching Grant Program, which has experienced success in facilitating economic self-sufficiency for newly arriving refugees within a short period of time. The Committee requests that ORR include information in its fiscal year 2010 budget justification estimating funding allocations, and the corresponding number of refugees served, for the Voluntary Agency Matching Grant Program for fiscal years 2008, 2009, and 2010.

*Family Preservation for Unaccompanied Refugee Minors (URM)* — The Committee commends the initial steps taken by ORR to address the problem of separated children and refugee family breakdown by piloting a family preservation specialist initiative in the URM Program. The Committee urges ORR to consider expanding this initiative to each of the 18 URM programs in the country. In addition, the Committee requests that ORR provide adequate funding to URM programs for capacity development so that they have the necessary infrastructure to accommodate increasing numbers of unaccompanied and separated refugee children. The Committee requests ORR to provide estimates of the number of family preservation specialists funded, along with corresponding estimates of the numbers of URM, for fiscal years 2008, 2009, and 2010 in the fiscal year 2010 budget justification.

### *Victims of Trafficking*

The Committee provides \$9,814,000 for Victims of Trafficking, which is the same as the fiscal year 2008 funding level and the budget request. The Committee strongly supports the continued administration of a national network for identification, tracking, and certification of trafficking victims.

The Committee is concerned that, in fiscal year 2007, this program certified only 303 child trafficking victims and recommends that ORR significantly expand its efforts to identify, assist, and certify human trafficking victims. The Committee also supports efforts to ensure that child trafficking victims do not remain trapped in life-threatening situations out of fear of being interrogated by law enforcement authorities. The Committee requests the Department to expedite letters of eligibility so that minor victims may be connected to benefits without delay.

### *Social Services*

The Committee provides \$154,005,000 for Social Services, which is the same as the fiscal year 2008 funding level and the budget request. Funds are distributed by formula as well as through the discretionary grant-making process for special projects. Within the funds provided, the Committee includes \$19,000,000 for continued support to communities with large concentrations of Cuban and Haitian entrants of varying ages whose cultural differences make assimilation especially difficult, justifying a more intense level and longer duration of Federal assistance. The Committee continues to request that ACF adequately fund refugee school impact grants.

### *Preventive Health*

The Committee provides \$4,748,000 for Preventive Health, which is the same as the fiscal year 2008 funding level and the budget request. These funds are awarded to States to ensure adequate health assessment activities for refugees.

### *Targeted Assistance*

The Committee provides \$48,590,000 for the Targeted Assistance program, which is the same as the fiscal year 2008 funding level and the budget request. These grants provide assistance to areas with high concentrations of refugees.

### *Unaccompanied Alien Children*

The Committee provides \$126,170,000 for the Unaccompanied Alien Children (UAC) Program, which is \$6,430,000 less than the fiscal year 2008 funding level and \$12,100,000 more than the budget request. Including carryover funds, \$137,570,000 is available for the UAC Program in fiscal year 2009, nearly \$5,000,000 more than in fiscal year 2008. These funds are provided to ensure that unaccompanied minors receive proper medical and other care. The UAC Program provides for the care and placement of unaccompanied children who are apprehended in the U.S. by law enforcement and taken into care pending resolution of their immigration cases. Funds

support temporary shelter, medical care, pro bono coordination, background checks, and family reunification.

*Transportation of Unaccompanied Alien Children* — The Committee understands that the Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency (ICE) proposes to transfer to ORR in fiscal year 2008 its responsibility for the transportation of unaccompanied alien children from the point of Department of Homeland Security apprehension to the initial placement in an ORR facility. The Committee does not support this proposal. ORR was not allocated a budget to carry out these transportation services and does not have the necessary infrastructure in place. The Committee believes that transferring this responsibility precipitously without proper planning could potentially create a chaotic situation that is not in the best interest of the children. The Committee believes that ORR shall accept this function only if it is able to assume this responsibility and the transfer is cost-effective, ICE reimburses ORR for the cost of this function as determined by an independent entity, and a joint transition plan for the orderly reassignment of this function is developed by ICE and ORR. The Committee requests a briefing on this matter within 90 days of enactment of this Act.

*Pro Bono Pilot Program* — The Committee commends ORR for implementing a pro bono pilot program for UACs and includes \$5,100,000 within the UAC program to continue this initiative to ensure legal representation of all UACs. The Committee intends that these funds be used to train attorneys to detect abuse, mistreatment, labor exploitation, and trafficking of these children. In addition, the Committee expects a portion of these funds to be used to train attorneys in methods that will ensure the appearance of children at all immigration court hearings. Finally, the Committee requests a report be included in the fiscal year 2010 budget justification on the effectiveness of this initiative, including the number and proportion of UACs provided pro bono legal representation. The Committee also requests that ORR include in its fiscal year 2010 budget justifications a detailed breakout of actual and estimated costs for shelter, medical, legal, transportation, administrative, and other activities for the UAC Program for fiscal years 2008, 2009, and 2010.

### *Victims of Torture*

The Committee provides \$10,817,000 to provide a comprehensive program of support for domestic centers and programs for victims of torture. This amount is \$1,000,000 above the fiscal year 2008 funding level and the budget request. The Committee provides these funds because some treatment centers have waiting times of two to four months before services can be provided. The additional funds will help to reduce long waiting lists and assist arriving Iraqi refugees who are torture survivors.

## **PAYMENTS TO STATES FOR THE CHILD CARE AND DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT**

The Committee provides \$2,112,081,000 for the discretionary portion of the Child Care and Development Block Grant, which provides child care services for low-income families. This amount is \$50,000,000 more than the fiscal year 2008 funding level and the budget request. Under the President's budget request, the number of children served under the discretionary portion of this block grant would drop by 200,000 or 7.4 percent compared to fiscal year 2007.

In contrast, the Committee recommendation will expand child care services to an additional 8,700 children in fiscal year 2009. Within the total, the Committee includes bill language designating \$18,800,000 for child care resource and referral activities; \$1,000,000 for the Child Care Aware toll-free hotline; \$268,000,000 for activities to improve the quality of child care, including \$98,200,000 for infant and toddler care; and \$9,820,000 for child care research, demonstration, and evaluation activities. The Committee believes that child care is a wise investment.

First, child care assistance is essential to enable low-income parents to work and become self-sufficient. Single mothers who receive child care assistance are 40 percent more likely to remain employed after two years than those who do not receive assistance. Second, studies have shown that high-quality child care helps ensure that children enter school ready to succeed. By second grade, children who have received high-quality care demonstrate greater mathematical ability, greater thinking and attention skills, and fewer behavioral problems than children who receive lower-quality care.

## **SOCIAL SERVICES BLOCK GRANT**

The President proposes, in a June 9, 2008 budget amendment, to cut the Social Services Block Grant (SSBG) by \$760,235,000 in fiscal year 2009. The Committee strongly disagrees with this reduction and recommends \$1,700,000,000 for SSBG, which is the same as the fiscal 2008 funding level. The Committee also opposes the Administration's proposal to eliminate the program in fiscal year 2010. The Committee continues to provide the entire authorized amount for this flexible source of funding to help local communities provide a variety of social services to needy individuals and their families. According to some estimates, the weak economy may cause at least half of the nation's States to face budget shortfalls due to declining tax receipts and other revenue. SSBG can quickly distribute flexible resources across the country to States and local communities experiencing fiscal distress. SSBG supports a wide variety of services in critical areas (e.g., nutrition, employment, housing, public health, and social services), which typically see increased demand during an economic downturn. The funds in this bill will allow States to reach approximately 17 million vulnerable individuals, including 11 million children, who are struggling with the high cost of gasoline, health care, and food, and may need other assistance.

## **CHILDREN AND FAMILIES SERVICES PROGRAMS**

The Committee provides a program level total of \$9,305,723,000 for Children and Families Services Programs, which is \$335,232,000 above the fiscal year 2008 funding level and \$812,513,000 above the budget request. Within the total provided, \$10,262,000 is provided through the section 241 Public Health Service Act evaluation set-aside. This account finances a number of programs aimed at enhancing the well-being of the nation's children and families, particularly those who are disadvantaged or troubled.

### *Head Start*

The Committee provides \$7,120,000,000 for Head Start, which is \$242,024,000 more than the fiscal year 2008 funding level and \$93,429,000 more than the budget request. Head Start

provides grants to local public and private non-profit agencies to provide comprehensive early childhood development services, including educational, health, nutritional, and social services, to economically disadvantaged children before they enter school. On December 12, 2007, the Improving Head Start for School Readiness Act of 2007 (Public Law 110-134) was enacted, reauthorizing Head Start through 2012. The new law makes several significant changes to Head Start, including expanding eligibility, establishing a funding priority for American Indian and Alaska Native and Migrant and Seasonal Head Start programs, enhancing qualification requirements for Head Start teachers and other staff, and imposing new competition requirements for poor performing grantees. The Subcommittee heard compelling testimony during its fiscal year 2009 budget hearings that investing in early childhood education is one of the best ways to improve child well-being, increase educational achievement and productivity of children and adults, and reduce crime. The funds provided will finance a full cost-of-living adjustment for Head Start teachers and staff, address rising costs of nutrition, transportation, and other operating costs, expand Head Start enrollment of migrant, Native American, and Alaska Native children, and support the new requirements in the Head Start Act.

*Homeless Children* — Public Law 110-134 includes provisions intended to enhance services for homeless children and increase their participation in Head Start. The Committee encourages ACF, in developing and implementing Head Start training and technical assistance, to work with organizations specializing in improving services to homeless children in early education programs.

*Migrant and Seasonal and Indian Head Start.*— The Committee is aware that Public Law 110-134 establishes a priority in funding for the Migrant and Seasonal Head Start Program and Indian Head Start Program. It also requires a study on the Migrant and Seasonal Head Start Program, and on the Indian Head Start Program, in order to ensure that these families have adequate access to Head Start and that barriers to such access are identified and addressed. The Committee requests that ACF report to the Committee on funding allocations to these targeted programs for fiscal year 2009. Further, the Committee requests that the Department submit the required reports to the House Committee on Appropriations upon their completion and brief the Committee on study findings within 30 days of their release.

*Pre-kindergarten Response-to-Intervention* — The Committee encourages ACF to examine a promising new area of early childhood education called Pre-kindergarten Response-To-Intervention, which may be an effective approach for students who struggle in the early years. Incorporating this approach in early childhood education might improve academic instruction for all preschool children, enhance school readiness, and prevent the need for special education services at the elementary level for many at-risk children.

#### *Consolidated Runaway and Homeless Youth Programs*

The Committee provides \$98,339,000 for Consolidated Runaway and Homeless Youth Programs, which is \$2,211,000 above the fiscal year 2008 funding level and the budget request. Funds for this program are distributed between the Basic Center program and the Transitional Living Program under a statutory formula. The Consolidated Runaway and Homeless Youth programs provide grants to local public and private organizations to establish and operate

runaway and homeless youth shelters to address the crisis needs of runaway and homeless youth and their families. Grants are used to develop or strengthen community-based shelters, which are outside the law enforcement, juvenile justice, child welfare, and mental health systems. The increase will fund new projects that will provide with youth essential life-skills, connect youth to education, workforce, and other supports, and expand services to pregnant/parenting youth.

#### *Prevention Grants to Reduce Abuse of Runaway Youth*

The Committee provides \$18,221,000 for Prevention Grants to Reduce Abuse of Runaway Youth, which is \$1,000,000 above the fiscal year 2008 funding level and the budget request. This program provides grants to support street-based outreach and education to runaway, homeless, and street youth who have been sexually abused or who are at-risk of sexual abuse. The street outreach program ensures rapid engagement with young people in an effort to prevent the most terrible situations that take place when they are subjected to life on the streets, including physical and sexual abuse, assault, commercial sexual exploitation, disease, long-term homelessness, and even death.

#### *Child Abuse State Grants*

For Child Abuse State Grants, the Committee recommends \$26,535,000, which is the same as the fiscal year 2008 funding level and the budget request. These funds support grants to States to improve child protective service systems. State grants are based on an initial \$50,000 allocation per State, with additional funds distributed based on the State's relative share of the number of children under age 18.

#### *Child Abuse Discretionary Activities*

The Committee provides \$41,689,000 for Child Abuse Discretionary Activities, which is \$4,790,000 above the fiscal year 2008 funding level and the budget request.

*Home Visitation Initiative* — Within the total provided for Child Abuse Discretionary Activities, the Committee provides \$15,000,000 to expand the home visitation initiative. These funds support competitive grants to States to encourage investment of existing funding streams into evidence-based home visitation models that have been shown to improve the health, well-being, and self-sufficiency

of low-income, first-time parents and their children. As in fiscal year 2008, ACF shall ensure that these funds support models that have been shown in well-designed, randomized controlled trials to produce sizeable, sustained effects on important child outcomes such as abuse and neglect. Funds shall support activities to assist a range of home visitation programs to replicate the techniques that have met these high evidentiary standards. In carrying out this initiative, ACF is instructed to adhere closely to evidence-based models of home visitation. ACF shall not incorporate any additional initiatives that have not met these high evidentiary standards or might otherwise dilute the emphasis on home visitation. The Committee recommendation also includes \$500,000 for a feasibility study on the creation, development, and maintenance of a national child abuse and neglect offender registry. Within the \$9,955,000 included in the bill, \$1,595,000 shall be used for the following projects in the following amounts:

Project	Committee Recommendation
Athens-Limestone County, Athens, AL for its children's advocacy center	\$ 50,000
County of Contra Costa, Martinez, CA for an initiative for children and adolescents exposed to domestic violence	375,000
Family and Children Services Division of Clark County Department of Job and Family Services, Springfield, OH for training, support and program management for child and adolescent trauma issues	100,000
Family Resource Center, SI Louis, MO for its Child Abuse Reduction Pilot Program	300,000
Jeffrey Foundation, Los Angeles, CA for child care food and other services for special needs children	110,000
Olive Crest, Las Vegas, NV for the strong Families, Safe Kids program	200,000
Women's Center of San Joaquin County, Stockton, CA for children's advocacy, crisis intervention, counseling, and other services for children who are victims of sexual assault	250,000
Young Women's Resource Center, Des Moines, IA for a child sexual abuse prevention training program	210,000

### *Community-based Child Abuse Prevention*

The Committee provides \$41,689,000 for Community-based Child Abuse Prevention, which is the same as the fiscal year 2008 funding level and the budget request. Funds are provided to State agencies and are used to develop, operate, expand, and enhance community-based efforts to strengthen and support families in an effort to prevent child abuse and neglect.

### *Abandoned Infants Assistance*

The Committee provides \$11,628,000 for the Abandoned Infants Assistance program, which is the same as the fiscal year 2008 funding level and the budget request. The purpose of this program is to provide financial support to public and private community and faith-based entities to develop, implement, and operate demonstration projects that will prevent the abandonment of infants and young children exposed to HIV/AIDS and drugs; identify and address their needs; assist such children to reside with their natural families or in foster care; recruit, train, and retain foster parents, as well as health and social services personnel; provide respite care for families and foster families; and prevent the abandonment of infants and young children.

### *Child Welfare Services and Training*

The Committee provides \$281,744,000 for Child Welfare Services, which is the same as the fiscal year 2008 funding level and the budget request. This program provides grants to States to assist public welfare agencies to improve child welfare services. State services include preventive intervention in order for children to stay in their homes, alternative placement such as foster care or adoption if it is not possible for children to remain at home, and reunification programs so that, if appropriate, children can return home. The Committee provides \$7,207,000 for child welfare training, which is the same as the fiscal year 2008 funding level and the budget request. The Committee recognizes the need for trained, skilled, and qualified child welfare



service workers. This program provides grants to institutions of higher education to develop and improve education and training programs and resources for child welfare service providers, as well as students seeking degrees in social work.

#### *Adoption Opportunities*

The Committee provides \$26,379,000 for Adoption Opportunities, which is the same as the fiscal year 2008 funding level and the budget request. This program provides funding specifically targeted to improving the adoption of children, particularly those with special needs, and for providing innovative services that support families involved in adoption.

#### *Adoption Incentives*

The Committee provides \$15,000,000 for Adoption Incentives, which is \$10,677,000 above the fiscal year 2008 funding level. This amount is \$4,674,000 less than the budget request, which was based on proposed legislation that has not been enacted. This program targets incentives specifically for older children. Funds are awarded to States using three baselines: one for the total number of children adopted, one for children with special needs under the age of nine, and one for children aged nine and older. The goal of this program is to increase the number of adoptions nationwide.

#### *Adoption Awareness*

The Committee provides \$13,453,000 for the Adoption Awareness Program, which is \$1,000,000 above the fiscal year 2008 funding level and the budget request. The budget increase for adoption awareness will expand training activities for adoption agency staff, resulting in enhanced information to, and counseling of, young pregnant women about adoption as one of their options, as well as expanded referrals to adoption agencies. Funds also will be used to develop best practice guidelines in adoption counseling.

#### *Compassion Capital Fund*

The Committee provides \$52,688,000 for the Compassion Capital Fund. This amount is the same as the fiscal year 2008 funding level and \$22,312,000 less than the budget request. This program provides grants to intermediary organizations that, in turn, provide training and technical assistance to faith- and community-based organizations. The program also provides capacity-building grants directly to the latter organizations, which include organizations that foster supportive relationships with youth.

#### *Social Services and Income Maintenance Research*

The Committee provides \$5,762,000 for Social Services and Income Maintenance Research, which is provided through the section 241 Public Health Service Act evaluation set-aside and is the same as the budget request. The fiscal year 2008 funding level was \$15,194,000, of which \$5,762,000 was through the evaluation set aside. These funds support research, demonstration, evaluation, and dissemination activities. Recent topics funded through this program include

welfare-to-work strategies and programs to strengthen family relationships and promote healthy marriages. Within the \$9,955,000 included in the bill, \$8,360,000 shall be used for the following projects in the following amounts:

Project	Committee Recommendation
180 Turning Lives Around, Inc., Hazlet, NJ for its child and teen violence reduction and treatment project	\$250,000
AAdvantage Foundation, Inc., North Strabane, PA to improve support services for the disabled	100,000
Action for Bridgeport Community Development, Inc., Bridgeport, CT for the Total Learning Program	200,000
Agudath Israel of America, Community Services, Inc., for a mentoring program for at-risk youth and children of prisoners	200,000
Asian Americans for Community Involvement, San Jose, CA for operating expenses for a domestic violence shelter	325,000
Borromeo Housing, Inc., Arlington, VA for its Elizabeth House Program to serve homeless adolescent mothers and their infants	150,000
Burdman Group, Inc., Youngstown, OH for its Sojourner House domestic violence services program	100,000
Cherokee County Commission, Centre, AL for social service and family support programs	100,000
Child Center of New York, Woodside, NY for early childhood education and intervention services for children and their families	100,000
Child Guidance Resource Center, Havertown, PA for services for autistic children	60,000
Children's Rehabilitation Center, Warren, OH for an initiative to implement a multi-disciplinary approach to providing services for families of children with disabilities	130,000
Children's Services Council of Palm Beach County, Boynton Beach, FL for evaluation and implementation of a nurse family partnership home visitation program	100,000
City of Fort Worth, TX for the Early Childhood Matters Initiative	300,000
City of Los Angeles, CA for its Young Women from Adversity to Resiliency Program	300,000
City of Norwich, New London, CT for services to pregnant and parenting adolescents and their families	85,000
County of Monterey Probation Department, Salinas, CA for its Silver Star Gang Prevention and Intervention Program	350,000
County of Solano, Fairfield, CA for an initiative to provide doula and/or parenting coaches for low-income pregnant, post-partem and parenting women	125,000
Crystal Stairs, Inc., Los Angeles, CA for its Special Needs Advisory Project to increase early childhood care and education opportunities for children with special needs	100,000
Deschutes County Family Access Network, Bend, OR for social service programs	250,000
Diaper Bank, New Haven, CT for services to at-risk children in childcare centers	140,000
Dickinson Mental Health Center, Ridgway, PA to develop programming for children diagnosed with autism	125,000
First 5 Alameda County, San Leandro, CA for its children's screening, assessment, referral, and treatment initiative	500,000
Horizons for Homeless Children, Lawrence, MA for programs for homeless children	100,000
Humility of Mary Health Partners, Youngstown, OH for a teen parent program	300,000
Jordan New Life Hub, Minneapolis, MN for life skills training, mentoring, case management, referral and other services for at-risk individuals and families	200,000
Katie Brown Educational Program, Barrington, RI for a youth relationship violence prevention initiative	100,000
Kids Oneida, Inc., Utica, NY for a community intervention plan to address child and youth abuse and neglect	50,000
Logan Community Resources, Inc., South Bend, IN for its Regional Autism Center	150,000

Minot State University, Minot, NO for its Great Plains Autism Treatment Program to serve children with autism spectrum disorders	150,000
Missouri Bootheel Regional Consortium, Portageville, MO for the Fatherhood First program	500,000
National Energy Assistance Directors' Association, Washington, DC for research and information dissemination related to the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program	200,000
Providence House, Shreveport, LA to provide outcomes-based child care services to homeless pre-school children	260,000
Sheriffs Youth Programs of Minnesota, Inver Grove Heights, MN for services for foster children and families and for professional development for staff	60,000
SingleStop USA, New York, NY for a project in San Francisco, CA to improve the access of low-income households to services	200,000
Space Coast Early Intervention Center, Melbourne, FL for afterschool childcare programs for children with disabilities	450,000
St Mary's Home for Children, North Providence, RI for services for abused children	200,000
Starr Commonwealth, Detroit, MI for its Structured Therapeutic Living Program for developmentally disabled and at-risk youth and young adults	100,000
Survivors of Torture, International, San Diego, CA for medical, dental, psychological, and social services to victims of torture	100,000
Susanna Wesley Family Learning Center, East Prairie, MO for programs to assist at-risk youth and their families	250,000
University of Central Missouri, Warrensburg, MD for its Midwest Clinic for Autism Spectrum Disorders	300,000
University of Toledo, OH for its Center for Excellence in Autism for autism spectrum disorder service programs	500,000
Watts Labor Community Action Committee, Los Angeles, CA for its Reading As Enablement to Reclaim Ourselves project to provide literacy, mentoring, and other services to individuals in shelters	100,000

### *Developmental Disabilities Assistance*

For programs authorized by the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act and the Help America Vote Act, the Committee recommends \$182,689,000. This amount is \$2,668,000 more than the fiscal year 2008 funding level and the budget request.

### *State Councils on Developmental Disabilities*

Within the total, \$74,150,000 is for allotments to States to fund State Councils on Developmental Disabilities, which is \$1,668,000 more than the fiscal year 2008 funding level and the budget request.

These State Councils develop, improve, and expand the system of services and supports for people with developmental disabilities. Through their activities, Councils on Developmental Disabilities provide for the inclusion and integration of individuals with developmental disabilities in the economic, political, social, cultural, religious and educational mainstream of our nation.

### *Protection and Advocacy*

Within the total, \$40,024,000 is available to States for the Developmental Disabilities Protection and Advocacy Program, which is aimed at protecting the legal and human rights of the

developmentally disabled. This amount is \$1,000,000 more than the fiscal year 2008 funding level and the budget request.

#### *Voting Access for Individuals with Disabilities*

Within the total, the Committee recommends \$17,410,000 for Voting Access for Individuals with Disabilities, which is the same as the fiscal year 2008 funding level and the budget request.

Within

the funds provided, \$12,154,000 is for payments to States to promote access for voters with disabilities and \$5,256,000 is for State protection and advocacy systems. These programs are intended to make polling places accessible and provide equal access and participation for individuals with disabilities. The protection and advocacy program will ensure that individuals can fully participate in the electoral process, including registering to vote, accessing polling places, and casting a vote. The Committee is concerned that nearly half of all States have not yet expended \$4,017,000 of fiscal year 2003 and \$4,474,000 of fiscal year 2004 voting access funds. These funds will expire at the end of fiscal year 2008 and fiscal year 2009, respectively, if not utilized in the next several months when they could have been put to good use in improving voting access for individuals with disabilities in other States that have fully expended their allocations. The Committee encourages the authorizing committees of jurisdiction to address this issue by authorizing a mechanism whereby unexpended funds may be redistributed to other States after a reasonable period of time.

#### *Developmental Disabilities Projects of National Significance*

Within the total, the Committee recommends \$14,162,000 for Developmental Disabilities Projects of National Significance. This amount is the same as the fiscal year 2008 funding level and the budget request.

#### *University Centers for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities*

Within the total, the Committee recommends \$36,943,000 for the University Centers for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities, which is the same as the fiscal year 2008 funding level and the budget request. This funding provides discretionary grants to public or not-for-profit entities associated with universities. The grants provide basic operational and administrative core support for these entities. In addition, these funds support interdisciplinary training, community services, research and technical assistance, and information dissemination.

#### *Native American Programs*

The Committee provides \$48,523,000 for Native American programs, which is \$3,000,000 above the fiscal year 2008 funding level and the budget request. The Native American programs assist tribal and village governments, Native American institutions, and organizations to support and develop stable, diversified local economies. In promoting social and economic self-sufficiency, this program provides financial assistance through direct grants for individual projects, training and technical assistance, and research and demonstration programs. The Committee intends that the \$3,000,000 increase be available to fund the activities authorized under section

803C(b)(7)(A)-(C) of the Native American Programs Act (as added by the Esther Martinez Native American Languages Preservation Act of 2006).

### *Community Services*

The Committee provides \$775,313,000 for community services activities. This amount is \$52,873,000 more than the fiscal year 2008 funding level and \$751,288,000 more than the budget request.

### *Grants to States for Community Services*

The President once again proposes to terminate the Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) in fiscal year 2009. The Committee strongly disagrees with this reduction and recommends \$700,000,000 for CSBG. This amount is \$46,200,000 more than the fiscal year 2008 funding level. CSBG provides grants to over 1,000 counties, territories, and Indian tribes for services, such as employment, housing, nutrition, energy, emergency services, child care, job training and placement, parenting education, adult literacy classes, domestic violence prevention, emergency food assistance, and health needs of low-income people. The Committee believes that CSBG is more important than ever, with unemployment and poverty increasing due to the struggling economy and the number of low-income individuals and families in need of assistance rising as a consequence. As a result of the funds provided, localities will assist more than 16 million low-income individuals. The Committee directs that \$500,000 of training and technical assistance funds under CSBG be allocated for a national community economic development training and capacity development initiative. Successful implementation of community development programs requires significant investment in high-quality board and staff training and proven technical assistance. This funding will enable community action agency leaders to attain the professional skills needed to undertake projects to enhance their communities' future security through financing and implementing innovative housing, economic and community development partnerships.

### *Community Economic Development*

The President proposes to terminate the Community Economic Development Program in fiscal year 2009. The Committee strongly disagrees with this reduction and recommends \$36,000,000 for Community Economic Development, which is \$4,533,000 more than the fiscal year 2008 funding level. Locally-initiated community economic development corporations (CEDCs) may receive grants under

this program to make loans or investments in private business enterprises that provide employment, training, and business opportunities for low-income individuals in poor communities. The Committee's recommendation reflects its commitment to helping CEDCs continue efforts to transform the low-income communities in which they serve. CEDCs help capitalize nearly 60,000 small businesses each year and provide approximately \$2,000,000,000 in loan assistance to entrepreneurs and residents in low-income communities a year. The Committee includes language clarifying Congressional intent regarding disposition of intangible assets, including loans and investments, acquired under the community economic development authority of the CSBG Act. The bill continues the policy in place since 1999 that establishes a

regulatory period of up to 12 years after the end of the grant period. During that period, as the grantee receives repayments or program income from these loans or investments, the grantee is permitted to recycle these funds into other similar projects. After that time, the intangible assets and program income become the property of the grantee provided they are used in a manner consistent with the intent of the authorizing statute. The bill clarifies that recycled and repaid loan or investment funds or program income may be used in any low-income community for any eligible purpose under the law and is not restricted to the original target area, financing, or type of project for which the grantee was originally funded. The language applies not only to new grantees but also to grantees for whom the post-grant period has reached a point at which the disposition of intangible assets must be made.

### *Rural Community Facilities*

The President proposes to terminate the Rural Community Facilities Program in fiscal year 2009. The Committee strongly disagrees with this reduction and recommends \$10,000,000 for the Rural Community Facilities program. This amount is \$2,140,000 more than the fiscal year 2008 funding level. The Committee includes these funds to be used solely for the purpose of improving water and wastewater facilities in poor, rural communities. As in the past, these funds should be allocated to regional rural community assistance programs.

### *Job Opportunities for Low-Income Individuals*

The Committee provides \$5,288,000 for Job Opportunities for Low-Income Individuals, which is the same as the fiscal year 2008 funding level. The budget request does not include funding for this program, which provides competitive grants to non-profit organizations to create new employment and business opportunities for TANF recipients and other low-income individuals.

### *Individual Development Accounts*

The Committee provides \$24,025,000 for Individual Development Accounts, which is the same as the fiscal year 2008 funding level and the budget request. Individual Development Accounts are dedicated savings accounts that can be used by families with limited means for purchasing a first home, paying for postsecondary education or capitalizing a business. The intent of the program is to encourage participants to develop and reinforce strong habits for saving money. Section 501(c)(3) organizations are eligible to apply for the funds and applicants must match Federal funds with nonfederal funds.

### *Violent Crime Reduction Programs*

The Committee provides \$130,552,000 for Family Violence Prevention and Services and Battered Women's Shelters. This amount is \$8,000,000 more than the fiscal year 2008 funding level and the budget request. This program is designed to assist States and tribes in efforts to prevent family violence and to provide immediate shelter and related assistance for victims of family violence and their dependents. The Committee also includes \$2,918,000 to finance a domestic violence hotline. This amount is the same as the fiscal year 2008 funding level and the budget request.

### *Mentoring Children of Prisoners*

The Committee provides \$50,000,000 for Mentoring Children of Prisoners, which is \$1,372,000 above the fiscal year 2008 funding level and the same as the budget request. This program supports competitively awarded grants to States and local governments, Indian tribes and consortia, and faith- and community-based organizations to mentor children of prisoners and those recently released from prison.

### *Independent Living Training Vouchers*

The Committee provides \$45,351,000 for Independent Living Training Vouchers, which is the same as the fiscal year 2008 funding level and the budget request. Vouchers for college tuition or vocational training are provided for youth who age out of the foster care system, increasing the prospects that they can obtain productive work and make a successful transition to independent living. These discretionary funds combined with \$140,000,000 in mandatory funds will result in a total of \$185,351,000, providing educational opportunities for approximately 37,190 youth in fiscal year 2009.

### *Community-based Abstinence Education*

The Committee provides a program level of \$113,400,000 for the Community-based Abstinence Education Program, which is the same as the fiscal year 2008 funding level and \$27,674,000 less than the budget request. Within the total, \$4,500,000 is provided through the section 241 Public Health Service Act evaluation set-aside. The program provides support to public and private entities for implementation of community-based abstinence education programs for adolescents aged 12 through 18 (as defined in Section 510(b)(2) of the Social Security Act). The entire focus of these programs is to educate young people and create an environment within communities that supports teen decisions to postpone sexual activity until marriage. There is no funding match requirement for these grants. The Committee intends that up to 5 percent of these funds be used to provide technical assistance and capacity-building support to grantees. Within the total, up to \$10,000,000 may be used to carry out a national abstinence education campaign. The Committee reiterates that ACF shall utilize the set-aside to ensure that programs around the country are using appropriate and approved curricula that are evidence-based and comply with the appropriate Federal legislation. In addition, the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall require each applicant for financial assistance under the abstinence education program funded under this heading to certify that all materials proposed in the application and funded during the project period of the grant are medically accurate; and a panel of medical experts shall review such grant applications and assess whether the materials proposed are medically accurate. As a further condition of any award, each grantee must, in writing and to the satisfaction of ACF, address all questions raised by ACF regarding the medical accuracy of the curriculum implemented under the project. This written explanation must specify how the grantee proposes to resolve all medical accuracy issues raised by ACF within 30 days. Failure to provide satisfactory resolution to all medical accuracy issues raised by ACF shall result in continued withholding of funds and/or termination of the project. The Committee requests ACF to provide

a detailed breakout to the House Committee on Appropriations on the planned use of the 5 percent set-aside funds and the funds for the national abstinence education campaign. The Committee also requests ACF to include in this report the funds from the national abstinence education campaign that are being used for training and technical assistance. The Committee reinforces the guidance from its report accompanying the fiscal year 2005 appropriation with respect to the abstinence messages given by the public health entities that are grantees in the Community-based Abstinence Education Program and to the conduct of evaluation activities for the program.

#### *Faith-based Center*

The Committee provides \$1,362,000 for the Faith-based Center, which is the same as the fiscal year 2008 funding level and the budget request. The center will support implementation of faith-based and community initiatives in accordance with the President's executive order.

#### *Disaster Human Services Case Management*

The Committee includes \$10,000,000 for the Disaster Human Services Case Management initiative, proposed by the Administration. This new initiative will be a collaboration between ACF and the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response within the Department of Health and Human Services and the Federal Emergency Management Agency. Its purpose is to assist States in building the capacity to provide effective case management services to victims of major disasters.

#### *Program Direction*

The Committee provides \$186,947,000 for Program Direction, which is \$2,451,000 more than the fiscal year 2008 funding level and \$8,483,000 less than the budget request. Program Direction provides funding for salaries and expenses for ACF program management in Washington, D.C. headquarters, ten regional offices, and 13 child support enforcement offices. Within the total, up to \$2,000,000 is provided in the bill for improving the Public Assistance Reporting Information System.

### **PROMOTING SAFE AND STABLE FAMILIES**

The Committee provides \$345,000,000 in mandatory funds for the Promoting Safe and Stable Families program, which is the same as the fiscal year 2008 funding level and the budget request. The Committee recommends \$63,311,000 in discretionary funds for this program, which is the same as the fiscal year 2008 funding level and the budget request. A total of \$408,311,000 will be available in fiscal year 2009 for this program, which enables each State to operate a coordinated program of family preservation services, community-based family support services, time-limited reunification services, and adoption promotion and support services. States receive funds based on their share of children in all states receiving food stamp benefits.



## **PAYMENTS TO STATES FOR FOSTER CARE AND ADOPTION ASSISTANCE**

The Committee provides \$5,096,000,000 for payments to States for foster care and adoption assistance, which is \$29,000,000 more than the fiscal year 2008 funding level and the same as the budget request. The Committee also includes an advance appropriation of \$1,800,000,000 for the first quarter of fiscal year 2010 to ensure timely completion of first quarter grant awards. Within the total, including the advance appropriation from the prior year, the Committee recommends \$4,449,000,000 for the Foster Care program, which is \$132,000,000 less than the fiscal year 2008 funding level and the same as the budget request. This reduction reflects an anticipated decrease in the foster child population. This program provides maintenance payments to States on behalf of children in foster care who must live outside their homes. Within the total, the Committee recommends \$2,283,000,000 for Adoption Assistance, which is \$127,000,000 more than the fiscal year 2008 funding level and the same as the budget request. This program provides payments to States on behalf of categorically eligible children considered difficult to adopt. In addition, the program provides training for adoptive parents and State administrative staff. This annually appropriated entitlement provides alternatives to long, inappropriate stays in foster care by developing permanent placements with families. Within the total, the Committee recommends \$140,000,000 for the Independent Living program, which is the same as the fiscal year 2008 funding level and the budget request. This program assists foster children age 16 or older make successful transitions to independence. Funds assist children to earn high school diplomas, receive vocational training, and obtain training in daily living skills. Each State receives funds based on the number of children on whose behalf the State receives Federal Foster Care Payments. These mandatory funds combined with \$45,351,000 in discretionary funds result in a total of \$185,351,000 for the Independent Living program, which will support educational opportunities for approximately 37,190 foster youth in fiscal year 2009.